



News Release

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Contact: Mike Stamler (202) 205-6919

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SBA Honors Small Business Contributions of National Champion Award Winners

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Administrator Hector V. Barreto of the U.S. Small Business Administration today awarded SBA Champion Awards to nine small business owners and small business backers from across the country in recognition of their outstanding achievements on behalf of small business. The awards were presented at a luncheon event at *SBA Expo '05*, the agency's three-day conference celebrating National Small Business Week.

“Today we are honoring people who are among the true champions of small business: lenders, nonprofit advocates, and business owners whose unflagging efforts have provided significant support to small businesses in their communities, their states and across the country,” said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. “They provide the tools, the information and the support that small businesses need to become successful, and their hard work helps create an environment in which the spirit of entrepreneurship can flourish.”

There are nine national Champion Award winners. The award winners are recognized for their efforts and excellence in many different aspects of small business. SBA Champions can be but are not limited to, small business owners, supporters of small business, women, minorities, families, exporters, journalists, veterans, or young entrepreneurs.

This year's Champion Awards recognize winners from California, Hawaii, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire and North Carolina.

The winners are:

2005 Exporter Champion
Dr. James R. Williams, Chairman
Polyonics, Inc.
Westmoreland, New Hampshire

2005 Financial Services Champion
Steve Stultz
Stultz Financial
Newport Beach, California

2005 Minority Champion
Mabel Alarcon-Craven
Small Business Banker
First National Bank
Omaha, Nebraska

2005 Veterans Champion
Patrick T. Heavey, Director
Veterans Business Resource Center
St. Louis, Missouri

2005 Jeffrey H. Butland Family-Owned Business
Champion
Walter “Kamika” Smith III, General Manager
Smith's Motor Boat Service
Kapaa, Kauai, Hawaii

2005 Journalist Champion
Michaela M. Cavallaro, Editor
Mainebiz
Portland, Maine

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2005 Women in Business Champion
Joy D. Wheeler, President and CEO
FirstGuard Health Plan
Kansas City, Missouri

2005 Home-Based Business Champion
Dorothy K. Breininger, CEO
Center for Organization and Planning
Canoga Park, California

2005 Young Entrepreneur of the Year
Jeremy L. Rozsak, President
William S. Simmons III, Vice President
Joshua P. Rozsak, Secretary/Treasurer
Jason L. Horner, CFO
Metal Recycling Services, Inc.
Monroe, North Carolina

Selected from nomination packages submitted by SBA field offices in their communities, the awardees are being recognized on the basis of having met one or more of the following criteria:

- Demonstrated entrepreneurial potential necessary for long-term business success and economic growth.
- If a small business, evidence of success as measured by sales and profits.
- Voluntary efforts beyond business/professional responsibilities to advance small business interests within the small business community, state and/or nation.
- Support of the small business community as a whole, not solely for individual personal advancement.
- Other accomplishments demonstrating the nominee's effective support of small business.

SBA Expo '05 is co-sponsored by SCORE, "Counselors to America's Small Business."

*For more information about SBA's programs for small businesses,
visit the SBA's extensive Web site at www.sba.gov.*

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